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FOR SIXTEEN YEARS, THE LESBIAN AND GAY WEEKLY

Norman pushes progressive agenda in SF Supervisor bid

"I am a human rights activist, a feminist and a gay liberationist"

By Chris Bull

SAN FRANCISCO — Black lesbian Pat Norman hopes to capture one of the six hotly-contested open seats on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. Her victory on Nov. 8 would bring the number of openly gay supervisors to two; Harry Britt has held a seat since he was appointed to replace Harvey Milk, the city's first gay supervisor, who was assassinated in 1978.

Norman, a long-time San Francisco activist, has strong support among the city's progressive voters. According to gay pollster David Binder, Norman stands an outside shot at winning a seat, despite being denied an endorsement by the city's popular first-term mayor, Art Agnos. Norman narrowly lost races for the Board in 1984 and 1986, when she garnered 54,000 and 60,000 votes, respectively. In both races she received the most votes per campaign dollar spent. This time around, Norman hopes to receive more than 90,000 votes.

Incumbents Willie Kennedy, a Black woman, liberal Carol Ruth Silver, and Britt — all endorsed by Agnos — are virtual shoe-ins for re-election, according to political pundits in the city. Agnos has also backed labor-leader Terence Hallinan and liberal Angela Alioto, giving them an early edge. Incumbent Supervisor Jim Gonzales, who is Latino, and Tom Hsieh, who is Asian, both appointed by conservative former mayor Dianne Feinstein, are considered out of touch with their communities and, therefore, vulnerable to losing their seats. In addition, Agnos has not endorsed either candidate.

Board president John Molinari, who lost a bitter battle with Agnos for mayor last December, is resigning. Twenty-four candidates in all are vying for the Board. Britt is the early favorite to replace Molinari as president of the Board.

During an interview at her San Francisco home which she shares with her lover of five years, Norman told *GCN* that she will run a "truly grassroots" campaign, based upon her support for rent and vacancy controls, libraries, the environment, the homeless, election reform and fighting AIDS.

"I intend to win this race. I am a human rights activist, a feminist, and a gay liberationist. But I will not sit at a table and make deals to get elected. I say what I believe.... The lesbian and gay community deserves another seat on the board," she said.

Several lesbian and gay community leaders, who wished to remain anonymous, told *GCN* Norman is a long-shot for the Board. They praised Norman's leadership ability, but said they doubted she could raise enough money to run a successful campaign.

One community activist who also wished to remain anonymous said the community is already over-extended fighting several repressive state-wide ballot measures. She said Proposition 102 — which would require

public health officials to report to the state anyone who tests positive for HIV antibodies — is receiving much of the community's energy and financial resources, leaving little for Norman's campaign.

But David Devereaux, head of fundraising for the Norman campaign, disagrees. He said the campaign will appeal to lesbian and gay communities around the country based on Norman's "high visibility" as co-chair of last year's National Lesbian and Gay March on Washington. "We won't match the big money campaigns, but we will do well enough to get her message across. And her message will win out in the end," Devereaux said. He pointed out that the campaign has raised \$8,000 and hopes to raise as much as \$70,000 by November. Hallinan and Alioto both expect to raise \$250,000 each.

Norman said her election as a Jackson delegate to the recent Democratic National Convention would increase her support in minority communities, particularly in the Black community, which accounts for 10 percent of the city's 750 thousand residents. (Jackson defeated Michael Dukakis in San Francisco's Democratic primary.) Norman also boasts an impressive list of endorsers, including: Roberta Achtenberg, director of the Lesbian Rights Project and recent state assembly candidate; Britt; Cesar Chavez, president of the United Farm Workers of America; Supervisor Richard Hongisto; novelist and political activist Alice Walker; Tom Nolan, San Mateo County Supervisor; and Supervisor Doris Ward.

Agnos' continued refusal to endorse Norman has angered the lesbian and gay community and Norman herself. "I was one of the earliest supporters of Art, even when it looked like he was a sure loser. I deserve his endorsement," said Norman. Part of the anger stems from the fact that Agnos has already endorsed people who have not been solidly behind him. For example, Britt supported Agnos' opponent, Molinari for mayor, and Kennedy has opposed Agnos on several key issues. Norman said, "I have experience and qualifications far greater than many of my opponents, far greater than many of the incumbents. I can only believe that political deals were made with other candidates. It's very unfair."

Scott Shafer, openly gay press secretary to Agnos, told *GCN* the mayor would not endorse Norman until she proves she has a good shot at winning the race. "Art is personally supportive of Norman. He endorsed both of her previous campaigns. But because his endorsement as mayor is so important, he is being very careful about giving it out." Asked whether Agnos was turning his back on the progressive constituency that elected him in favor of wealthier candidates, Shafer said the mayor "still is considering an additional endorsement." Norman said Agnos is not returning her calls.

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"the flock/of gay blades"

Poetry and Graphics by
Gay and Lesbian
Prisoners



Harvard medical establishment ripped by ACT UP/Boston

Activists stage theatrical demo denouncing 'elegant science' and calling for humane treatment for PWAs, PWARCs

By Elizabeth Pincus

BOSTON — Harvard medical students arrived for the first day of classes Sept. 7 to find ACT UP/Boston hosting its own version of student orientation: ten "volunteers" bound in chains, blindfolds and hospital gowns circled the sidewalk chanting, "We're here to show defiance, for what Harvard calls, 'good science!'"

While students, staff and faculty walked past the late afternoon protest, which was held outside the nexus of buildings in the Longwood medical area, members of ACT UP/Boston poured a container of fake blood on the sidewalk to demonstrate anger over Harvard's approach to AIDS research and treatment. Claiming that the Harvard medical-industrial complex has a "murderous monopoly of the AIDS agenda in New England and the U.S.," ACT UP/Boston distributed literature, talked to individuals and posed a number of questions to the Harvard medical community.

For example, the group's facetious course outline for "AIDS 101" included topics such as:

- PWAs — human beings or laboratory rats?
- AZT — why does it consume 90 percent of all research when it's highly toxic and is not a cure?
- Harvard-run clinical trials — are subjects genuine volunteers, or are they coerced?
- Medical elitism — is the pursuit of elegant science leading to the destruction of our community?

The demonstration, attended by about 50 ACT UP/Boston members and supporters, was a visually gripping display of the AIDS activists' anger and street tactics. A large banner claiming "Our Blood, Your

Diploma" was a backdrop to the action, which ACT UPers said was an attempt to call attention to a number of interconnected AIDS treatment issues. In particular, the protest focused on the plight of people with



ACT UP members act out the predicament faced by PWAs involved in medical research

AIDS (PWAs) participating in Harvard-run clinical drug trials. According to ACT UP/Boston, Harvard researchers insist on administering placebos to some clinical trial participants, refuse to consider workable alternatives, refuse to cooperate with the growing system of Community Research Initiatives, and concentrate resources on further studies of AZT — a drug shown to have serious side effects for many people who take it.

Demonstrators explained that though

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Quote of the week

“[The pro-Irish Republican Army (IRA) protesters] were causing a great deal of trouble and also the gays and lesbians. You know, if you get people who support the IRA or the gays and the lesbians causing trouble then, really, you are very glad they are not on your side.”

— British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, commenting on demonstrators at her tour of Melbourne during her trip to Australia in early August. Thatcher was quoted in the Financial Times European edition as saying that the pro-IRA and pro-gay protests actually strengthened her support among “a majority of people.”

Finally, a soap fag!

NEW YORK — Daytime TV viewers can now have the pleasure of watching a gay guy who’s out. After decades of daytime drama that’s only recently barely broached the topics of lesbian relationships and AIDS, viewers of *As The World Turns* can now follow the daily struggles of Hank Eliot, a character who recently informed his “girlfriend” he was gay.

Doug Marlan, head writer for *As*, told *USA Today* that “our approach was to bring in a very strong, likable, seemingly single male figure that our audience would learn to like and respect before the revelation was made.”

Hank, played by Brian Starcher, is a fashion designer who, of course, has a long-time lover in New York — thereby avoiding those awkward love scenes in Oakdale.

□ Jennie McKnight

ACT UP/KC holds first zap at Circle K

KANSAS CITY — A new chapter of the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACT UP) launched its commitment to direct action in a picket and leafletting of a Circle K convenience store in Kansas City Aug. 26. Over a dozen members of ACT UP/KC and their friends took part in the two hour demo during rush hour.

The demonstration was called to protest Circle K’s AIDS-phobic policy of denying insurance to employees on the basis of “personal lifestyle.” Circle K is the second largest chain of convenience stores in the U.S., with over 4,000 stores, most of which are located in the South and Southwest.

Although recently enacted Missouri laws extend protections to people with AIDS, including insurance discrimination protection, ACT UP/KC noted in a press release that a court challenge to the company’s policy would likely be lengthy and urged direct protest. Demonstrations against Circle K have taken place in a variety of cities.

ACT UP/KC can be contacted at P.O. Box 10085, Kansas City, MO 64111; phone (816) 753-5930.

□ Jennie McKnight

Illinois mobilizing against more bad AIDS bills

CHICAGO — The Illinois Gay and Lesbian Task Force is heading up a letter-writing campaign to urge Gov. James Thompson to veto two pieces of AIDS-phobic legislation. The group is distributing 10,000 postcards in an effort to prevent the passage of H.B. 4005, which would allow doctors to administer HIV antibody tests without their patients’ consent, and H.B. 3695, which would allow dentists to refuse to treat people with AIDS or who test antibody positive for HIV.

□ Jennie McKnight

Feds expand HIV antibody testing

WASHINGTON — The federal government has begun widespread blood testing in an attempt to determine the speed and prevalence of HIV transmission in the U.S. (HIV is thought by many to be a cause of AIDS.) About 1.6 million blood samples

will be taken annually from newborns, hospital patients, and clients of health clinics in most states, according to the *New York Times*. Blood drawn from college students, patients of family doctors, prisoners and emergency room patients will also be tested. Most of the tests will be carried out anonymously on blood samples collected for other purposes. Participants will not know that their blood was tested and health authorities will have no way of tracing samples to individuals. The *Times* story reported that this method, which does not rely on voluntary participation, is thought by “experts” to be the best way to get a truly random sampling of a group.

These new surveys will cost about \$40 million and will supplement the testing of more than 7 million blood samples drawn from blood donors and military recruits annually. The blood surveys are probably the largest effort to trace a single infection through the American population, according to Dr. Timothy J. Dondero, Jr., chief of the sero-epidemiology branch of the AIDS program at the Federal Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta. “We anticipate some initial results that we can make sense of by the end of 1988,” Dondero told the *Times*. “It won’t be definitive, but we should have enough data by the end of the year to at least see some patterns,” he said.

According to the *Times*, the new surveys were initiated by the White House to resolve uncertainties and disputes over how far the virus has spread.

□ Paul-David Wadler

Public wants AIDS ed in classroom

NEW YORK — Ninety percent of the general public and 94 percent of parents with children in public school believe AIDS education has a place in the classroom, but a quarter of those surveyed said a child with HIV should be banned from school, according to a Gallup Poll reported in the *Boston Globe*. Eighty-one percent of the parents endorse “safe sex” instructions on preventing AIDS, according to the findings, published in the education journal *Phi Delta Kappan*.

□ Paul-David Wadler

New sisters saying it

BOSTON — Fans of the progressive, feminist radio show *Say It, Sister!* will hear new host voices over the airwaves this fall. Six women who have undergone training during the summer months will take over the production of *Say It, Sister!* from its founder, Jennifer Abod.

The new *Say It, Sister!* collective consists of long-time political activists Ana Ortiz and Jennifer Walters and feminists Elsie Surena (of Haiti), Ellen Reynolds, Kim Motylewski, and Mary Dougherty. Lisa Gonsalves and Leslie Absher will also participate in the production of the show.

Some of the highlights of this fall’s coverage will be shows covering Black women’s health, Haitian lesbian and gay issues, the struggles of Latina women, women’s classical music, and coping with the death of a partner

Say It, Sister! can be heard weekly on Wednesday nights between 7 and 8 p.m. on station WMBR 88.1 FM. Comments and contributions can be sent to Say It Sister!, P.O. Box 426, Cambridge, MA 02139.

□ Jennie McKnight

New vaccine trials to begin

WASHINGTON — An experimental AIDS vaccine made with a genetically altered version of the virus used in smallpox vaccinations will soon be tested in volunteers at six university medical centers, the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) has announced. Each of the medical centers will recruit nine initial volunteers to determine the vaccine’s safety and its ability to produce an immune response, according to the *New York Times*. NIAID maintains that there is no chance of contracting AIDS from the vaccine, since it contains no live or killed HIV. (HIV is a

virus thought by many to be a cause of AIDS.) The volunteers must be healthy women or men who test negative for HIV antibodies and “who are not engaged in behavior that would place them at risk for contracting HIV,” the institute said.

The vaccine is produced by Bristol-Myers Company and is the second to enter human trials in the U.S. It consists of a live vaccinia virus that has been genetically altered to produce a surface protein from HIV. Human studies began earlier this year on a potential vaccine manufactured by Microgenesys, Inc., of West Haven, Conn. The vaccine is derived from genetically altered insect cells. Still other potential vaccines are being tested in Europe and Africa.

“We are quite a distance from a vaccine that would be approved for general use,” said Elaine Bladwin of NIAID. At each of the six centers, six volunteers will receive the potential AIDS vaccine and three will receive the smallpox vaccine as a control. Neither the volunteers nor the physicians conducting the test will know which vaccine each person is receiving until the data are analyzed.

The six medical centers that will conduct the studies are the University of Maryland, Baltimore; Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore; Vanderbilt University, Nashville; the University of Rochester; Baylor College of Medicine, Houston; and Marshall University, Huntington, W. Va.

□ Paul-David Wadler

And another ACT OUT springs up in Hartford

HARTFORD — A new direct action group dedicated to activism on a wide range of lesbian and gay issues has formed here. Called Connecticut Act Out, the group is small, but hopes to attract members from all over the state, according to one of its founders, Henry Ablove.

Conn. Act Out has set Sept. 28 as the date for its first action, when it plans to demonstrate in front of the offices of the state’s Department of Corrections (at the corner of Broad St. and Capitol Ave. in Hartford). The protest will target the department’s refusal to distribute condoms to male prisoners or dental dams to female prisoners. Ablove said this initial action would not include civil disobedience, but that once the group acquires non-violence training CD may become part of future actions.

Ablove said the members of the group were impressed by other direct action groups that have sprung up around the country, but also said he was proud of the important connections the fledgling Connecticut group had already made with other progressive organizations. For example, Conn. Act Out has already been asked to send speakers to represent the group at the upcoming demonstration in support of Puerto Rican Independence (Sept. 24) and a rally denouncing police brutality and racism sponsored by the NAACP.

Ablove said the group welcomes supporters to attend the Sept. 28 demo. To contact Conn. Act Out, call Henry Ablove at (203) 547-0009, or Tony Carlow at (203) 521-7864.

□ Jennie McKnight

New Boston Helpline

Boston’s new Gay and Lesbian Helpline number is (617) 267-9001. The line is staffed Monday through Friday from 6:00 to 11:00 p.m.

The Helpline, sponsored by the Fenway Community Health Center, offers general information, referrals, and telephone counseling to the Boston area and beyond. Use it!

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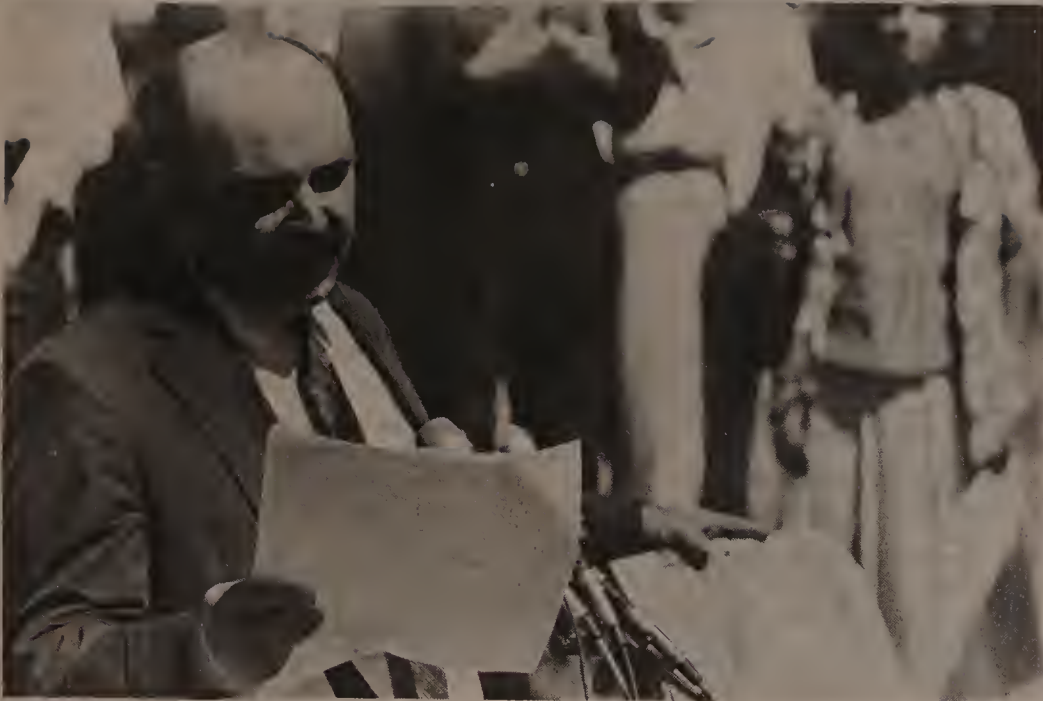
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Lisa Sette

Holt enters final stretch in effort to oust Bulger

BOSTON — With just a week remaining until the Sept. 15 primary elections, state Senate candidate Stephen Holt took to the State House steps to rally last-minute support for his candidacy. The progressive activist and life-long Dorchester resident hopes to unseat incumbent William Bulger, the powerful Senate President and homophobe who represents the First Suffolk District. Holt, a pro-gay candidate who also supports abortion rights, Senate rules reform and action for affordable housing, has mounted a campaign to attract diverse support in his district, now comprising parts of Dorchester, South Boston, Roxbury, Chinatown, the South End, Beacon Hill and the Back Bay.

Under picture-perfect Beantown skies, community leaders shared turns at the podium during the Sept. 7 noon rally to voice support for Holt, the first candidate to challenge Bulger's reign since 1972. Speakers included Ed Cook, executive director of the Greater Boston Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance (GBL/GPA), Joyce Cunha, director of Mass Choice, and representatives from other professional associations and political groups. During Holt's time at the mike, he thanked his supporters and lashed out at his opponent. Holt claimed Bulger has falsely represented himself as a friend of the arts, a friend of the poor and a friend of the environment. "Senator Bulger has tremendous power and a great deal of campaign money," Holt stated, "and he is using the money and power to conduct a major overhaul of his public image."

A smattering of lesbians and gay men were on hand to show solidarity with the Holt campaign, which some say offers hope for lesbian/gay interests on Beacon Hill. Does Holt have a chance? "He may surprise everyone," said gay activist Michael Mammony, "if he can mobilize progressive support in all parts of the district."

Norman

Continued from page 1

Roberta Achtenberg, director of the Lesbian Rights Project, called Agnos' failure to endorse Norman "inexcusable. How can she possible prove she is a 'viable' candidate without his endorsement? With Pat on the Board and Harry as president he would have two strong supporters. It's to his own advantage."

Leading the city's rainbow coalition

Norman, who describes herself as being of French, African and Native American descent, has compiled an impressive list of credentials since moving to San Francisco in 1971. She is co-chair of the national

"With [Vin] McCarthy and [Elaine] Noble everything is 'I have been appointed to this position, I have been appointed to this committee [by Dukakis]'.... That is not community empowerment. That's not what we're fighting for. I am pissed. I mean, what do they think they are doing?"

Mobilization for Peace, Jobs and Justice; board president of the Larkin Street Youth Center (an advocacy center for homeless youth); and board member of Community United Against Violence. She founded San Francisco's Gay Counseling Services and the Lesbian Mothers Union in 1971.

"Pat has a terrific record as a leader in rainbow politics. She has run two good campaigns already. For someone to break through onto the Board, they must have the kind of politics Pat has," said Achtenberg.

The key to the election, said Norman, is getting out her message of "experienced, community, progressive and principled leadership. The campaign is learning to fight people who really are into power in a way not connected to community, not connected to people, but only to greed. It's very exciting to try to get this message across. This is a heavy-duty rainbow coalition in action."

Norman said she thinks it is important for

progressives to get involved in electoral politics. "I have nothing but contempt for 'politics as usual'.... But the system is not going to go away. I used to think there was going to be a revolution. I thought that by working outside the system, we would be able to set up something more supportive and caring for people. That may work to a certain extent. Now I know we have to work from the inside out also.... We must keep on coming up with new strategies. We are making changes. I favor a multi-level approach to politics."

Describing her commitment to "coalition politics," rather than a separatist movement, Norman said, "If a nuclear bomb explodes we all die — Black, white, gay, straight. We are fighting a war of many fronts against AIDS, homelessness, bigotry, violence. Only this way will we discover the deep humanity within ourselves."

Norman criticized "self-proclaimed" lesbian and gay leaders — U.S. Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.), Boston lawyer Vin McCarthy and lesbian Elaine Noble — for their opportunistic support of presidential candidate Michael Dukakis. "With McCarthy and Noble everything is 'I have been appointed to this position, I have been appointed to this committee [by Dukakis].' Everything is I, I, I. That is not community empowerment. That's not what we are fighting for. I am pissed. I mean, what do they think they are doing?"

As for Dukakis, Norman said "I will vote for the Democratic candidate, but I refuse to endorse him. He has been no friend of progressives. He is not worth [anything] to us. Unfortunately, I feel I have no choice."

Hanging in the balance of the election are several crucial issues. Vacancy control has a one-vote margin, and opponents of homeporting the Navy battleship, the USS Missouri, fear they are in danger of losing votes on the Board. Several activists told *GCN* that some San Francisco voters resent recent gains by the lesbian and gay community, including a Board resolution to ban the Olympic Games from the city. (The U.S. Olympic Committee successfully sued the Gay Olympics over the use of its name, provoking the ire of the lesbian and gay community. Britt managed to pass a Board resolution banning the Games from San Francisco as long as the USOC continues to object to the Gay Olympics.)

On the other hand, Norman's election,

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Fenway HIV treatment center opens

Outpatient services expand for AIDS treatments in Boston and New England

By Elizabeth Pincus

BOSTON — With understated decorum suited to the crisp pre-fall day, government representatives and health care activists turned out on Sept. 6 to celebrate the opening of the Fenway Community Health Center (FCHC) HIV Outpatient Treatment Center. The several score of participants, including FCHC administrators and practitioners, gathered outside the clinic at 16 Haviland Street to hear speakers discuss the new facility, which will be Massachusetts' first freestanding outpatient treatment center for people infected with HIV (a virus thought by many to be a cause of AIDS). Boston Mayor Raymond Flynn did not attend, as previously announced, though FCHC spokespersons thanked the city for its support and financial contributions to the facility.

"The treatment center is not intended to be a replacement for other kinds of facilities," said Ken Mayer, FCHC research director, "but a model for other community-based centers, an attempt to offer an integrated framework for providing care to people."

According to Heather Hersee, FCHC director of development and public relations, the new HIV Outpatient Treatment Center will provide drug therapies currently offered only on an in-hospital basis, thereby increasing the availability of much-needed medical care for people with AIDS, ARC and HIV-infection. The outpatient service is intended to make health care more accessible, and allow people to remain living at home. Explained Hersee, "We want to help improve people's quality of life. Some of the therapies are preventative procedures that will reduce the need for hospitalization, thereby cutting down on costs."

The facility will accommodate an estimated 332 patients a year for in-

travenous and other forms of drug treatment. Speakers at the opening celebration especially noted the expansion of FCHC's program of administering aerosolized pentamidine (AP), a treatment shown to effectively prevent pneumocystis carinii pneumonia (PCP), the leading cause of death among people with AIDS (PWAs). With the opening of the HIV Outpatient Treatment Center, FCHC will begin administering AP to many more than the 25 patients currently receiving the treatment at the clinic.

Also offered will be intravenous pentamidine for acute PCP; intravenous Bactrim, also used for treating PCP; Acyclovir, used in treating herpes developed due to a suppressed immune system; DHPG for cytomegalovirus (a herpes-related virus that can cause flu-like symptoms or severe infection in PWAs) and retinitis (an eye condition that afflicts some PWAs); and Amphotericin, used for treating patients who develop toxoplasmosis (an infection that can cause inflammation of the brain). According to Hersee, as new drug therapies are proved effective, they will be added to the HIV Outpatient Treatment Center's offerings.

The opening ceremony included speeches from Jim Williams, director of the city's Human Rights Commission, FCHC's executive director Dale Orlando, and representatives from the legislature and Boston's AIDS Action Committee (AAC). The most impassioned words came from Jack Milts, who spoke on behalf of city councillor David Scondras. Milts condemned government leaders for cowardice and failing to effectively deal with the AIDS crisis, and slammed corporate profiteering by manufacturers of AZT and AP. Though

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Mass. Atty. General discloses bigoted slurs made by brutal Senate court officers

Shannon pursues charges of civil rights violations against les/gay protesters despite inaction by Senate Pres. Billy Bulger

By Elizabeth Pincus

BOSTON — The complaint filed on Sept. 1 by Attorney General James Shannon charges three Mass. Senate court officers with violating the civil rights of gay men and lesbians during a State House protest last winter. Shannon alleges that officers Conrad Bailey, Thomas Sheehan and William Marcelonis used excessive force, anti-gay and racial harassment, and unconstitutional and illegal police procedures while on duty at the Jan. 4 demonstration in support of the state lesbian/gay civil rights bill. (Last week's story about Shannon's complaint [*GCN*, Vol. 16, No. 8] should have described the offending officers as court officers, not Capitol police. — *Ed.*)

The action, filed in Suffolk Superior Court under state and federal civil rights acts, requested a court injunction barring the officers from working during any State House demonstration until they receive training in police techniques. Shannon also asked for a court order prohibiting the defendants from making derogatory racial and/or anti-gay slurs, and from assaulting, threatening or harassing anyone on the basis of race, color or national origin, or because of their actual or perceived sexual orientation.

Shannon called the actions used by Bailey, Sheehan and Marcelonis against the lesbian and gay protesters "abusive, unprovoked and unjustified."

He explained, "Every citizen of this state, regardless of race, color, sex or sexual orien-

tation, is equally entitled to protection by law. That includes the peaceable exercise of the right to protest. We cannot tolerate abuse by public employees who are entrusted ... to uphold these fundamental rights. Fear or intolerance of another person is no excuse."

Several participants in the demo told *GCN* they were pleased with Shannon's suit, though some expressed anger that a criminal assault charge had not been filed. One gay man who attended the Jan. 4 protest, and asked not to be identified, said, "I'm disappointed [the charges] didn't go farther. But I think this case will draw a lot of attention to the civil rights laws, so I'm pleased with that."

As reported in last week's *GCN*, Katherine Triantafillou, attorney for the "State House 14," said she was delighted the complaint had finally been filed. Shannon had been investigating the charges of brutality since Jan. 4, when Senate President William Bulger received heat for the alleged misconduct of the Senate court officers, who are under his command. Bulger declined to comment on Shannon's complaint, but a top Bulger aide, Paul Mahoney, told the *Boston Globe* he did not believe the demonstrators had been "peaceably assembled."

"They had chained themselves to their chairs and were shouting," Mahoney said. "Nobody has a right to disrupt the

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GCN Lesbian Erotica Benefit: "Waking Up, A Lesson in Love"

Directed by Greta Schiller and produced by Linda Farin and Lindsey Lane. Paine Hall at Harvard. 7pm. \$5. Info: 426-4469.

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Prisoner AIDS via rape setups and injections (or, what are they hiding behind all of this 'bus therapy?')

Dear GCN: Since my earlier letters published in GCN [May 15-21, 1988] about the case of Lewis Sierra, who tested positive for HIV-exposure and was denied release from prison because of it, there have been many new developments.

In early June, an article by me about the Sierra case and the federal prison system's treatment of AIDS cases was published by the New York Times. This publication resulted in numerous radio and newspaper interviews around the country, and two requests for television interviews — an ABC affiliate and the CBS Evening News.

Unfortunately, before the TV interviews could be scheduled, the Bureau of Prisons placed me in segregation, and then began bus transfers from prison to prison around the country. After I stayed in Lewisburg (Pennsylvania) two weeks, I was moved to El Reno (Oklahoma) where I have been for the last two weeks. I am expected to eventually get to Sandstone, Minnesota, but this "punishment" for media attention has caused me a total denial of access to the courts in regard to litigation I have pending, a cutoff of all mail, and a delay in my release date as I was expecting to go to a halfway house in September or October, but the paperwork can't be processed while I am in transit.

The one good thing in this situation is that Lewis Sierra was eventually released, after spending some extra time in prison solely for his positive HIV test. Others have not been so lucky.

While at Lewisburg and El Reno there have been numerous rumors of cases of deliberate infliction of AIDS on federal prisoners through rape setups and through injections. I have no verification, but would like to hear from anyone who does.

[Prisoner Project Note: Adam has been very articulate on the treatment of PWAs/-PWARCs/HIV positive people in prison. He's on a 'frontline' of this struggle and deserves our support. Please drop him a line; so they know he's 'in touch' (with the outside world)]

Sincerely, Adam Starchild 04690-067 Box 1000 Sandstone, MN 55072

NAMBLA never banned from New York Pride

Dear GCN: In your issue of July 17-23 (Vol. 16, No. 2), Chris Bull states that NAMBLA [North American Man Boy Love Association] has been banned from New York City's Pride events several times. Heritage of Pride, Inc. has never banned NAMBLA or any other group from participating in any of the Lesbian and Gay Pride events we organize in New York City.

We spoke with Mr. Bull this week and asked him with whom on our committee he had spoken. He admitted he had not spoken with anyone from Heritage of Pride. We hope that this letter serves to set the record

straight. We are proud of the diversity of our community. We are proud that, at least once a year, we can all come together to make our voices heard. We hope next time GCN wants to write about New York Pride events, they get in touch with Heritage of Pride.

With Pride, Marc Scott Berkley Janice E. Thom Co-coordinators Heritage of Pride, Inc. New York, N.Y.

Painting an all-male picture of the epidemic

Dear GCN: "The Report of the Presidential Commission on HIV," in your August 7-13 issue [Vol. 16, No. 5], may have been better entitled "Reports From the New Boys Network Commenting on the Old." It took me physically aback that once again "our" community voices of noted experts continue to be men, by a staggering margin. Your recent analysis did mention the problems women PWAs [people with AIDS] and [HIV antibody] positives face yet no women involved in the AIDS movement, women's health care movement or Black gay/lesbian rights were apparently available for comment. What the hell is the matter with this picture? GCN's writers do an enormous disservice to their readership when they continue to paint an all-male picture of the epidemic.

It's very courageous of Ms. Gebbie to say that "child care responsibilities often prevent women from addressing their own health needs" but perhaps we could go farther in this analysis. For those of us with husbands, lovers and friends dying of this illness, this blithe mention is not enough. For those of us trying to live with the disease, your analysis is an insult. For the first time in my 10 years of working with GCN I have no defense for your actions. As a Black woman, I have watched with a mixture of horror, amusement and sadness your attempts at racial equity. I have never seen white guilt so effectively misused before, yet none of it compares to the smiling ignorance with which your current commentary is presented. Does it occur to any that ACT UP is primarily made up of 95 percent or better young White men getting in touch with their anger. It's a wonderful vehicle for action, but not all of us fit in it. Certainly ACT UP members' testimony was important but let someone else's version of the truth be heard. Certainly comparing oppression is a useless exercise but denying contributions and lives is another matter. Women are activists; mothers of children are dying.

We are AIDS activists and experts, and we are definitely pissed off. Until the day someone else notices that lots of other people besides White gay men are dying, I think your report and analysis will remain unfinished.

Sincerely, Veneita Porter Director of Office of AIDS Discrimination New York State Division of Human Rights New York, N.Y.

Blood donor "location" on the way?

Dear GCN: On August 4, the [U.S.] House of Representatives passed H.R. 4333, the "Miscellaneous Revenue Act of 1988," by a vote of 380 to 25. While the bill covered largely technical or minor revisions to the Social Security Act, it also included a provision that has dangerous implications.

H.R. 4333 would authorize blood donor facilities to require donors to furnish Social Security Numbers, and require the Social Security Administration to establish a Blood Donor Locator Service that would furnish information about donors infected with the AIDS virus to certain blood facilities and states.

This smacks of Big Brother and the McCarthy era. Can plans for quarantine be far behind?

I suggest that we all write our senators to urge that the bill not be approved with the "blood donor" provision. I think we should also make an effort to find out which members of the House voted for passage of this bill.

We put a lot of effort into fighting dangerous AIDS-specific legislation (like proposals put forth by Lyndon LaRouche

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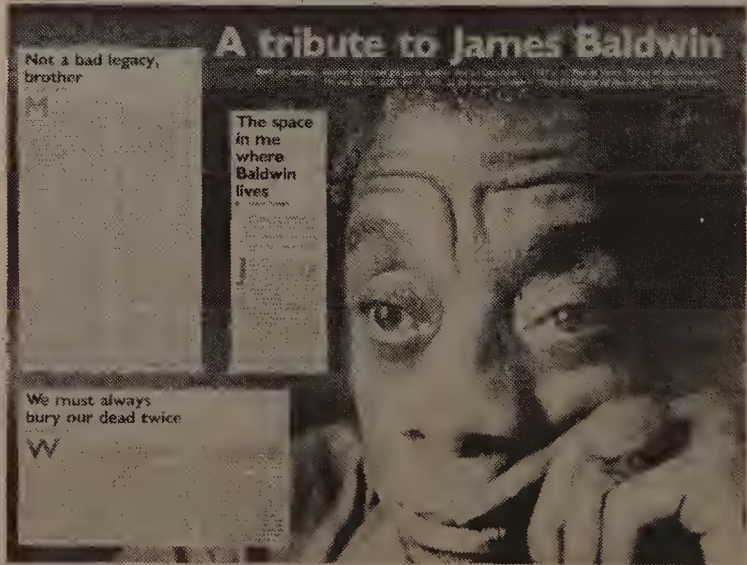
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and U.S. Rep. William Dannemeyer). However, it seems that equally dangerous legislation is being “slipped” virtually unnoticed into otherwise innocuous bills. Let’s not let “them” get away with it!

■ M. Janet Allen
Albany, Calif.

Boycott Britain

Dear *GCN*:
I couldn’t believe my eyes when I read in your May 8-14 issue [Vol. 15, No. 41] that the AIDS Walk [the 10 kilometer pledge-walk organized by Boston’s AIDS Action Committee] offered as its grand prize a trip to the capital city of a neo-Fascist state, Great Britain.

Britain should be boycotted not only for the heinous Clause 28 but also because of state terrorism in Gibraltar and Northern Ireland (read *The Stalker Affair*), anti-abortion initiatives in the House of Commons, the Tory drive to strengthen religious fundamentalism in the government schools, and London police’s physical attacks upon Blacks (enjoying a peaceful street festival) as well as upon selected lesbians and gay men (for example at the January 9th protest march against the then proposed Clause 28). This incomplete list is limited to acts of statutory bodies and/or their members, and completely omits homophobic violence engendered and encouraged by state repression.

Is this where our community wants to send the best AIDS walkers? Why not choose, instead, a country that is both gay positive in its policies and touristically attractive? An example would be Hungary, whose Cabinet has granted official recognition to HOMEROS-Lambda, the new national lesbian-gay organization — state recognition unprecedented in the West or anyplace else. In addition it is a delightful, culturally-rich, scenically beautiful country. And the prize-winners’ dollars would buy them far more value in Hungarian forints than in British pounds.

■ Richard Steinman
Portland, Maine

The Case of Ulrichs

Dear *GCN*:
In my review of Hubert Kennedy’s *Ulrichs* (Vol. 16, No. 4), the editor inadvertently made two separate legal cases from 19th century Germany appear to be the same. Unfortunately, I referred to both cases in one paragraph and identified only one by name. When the editor was reducing the length of the article, she eliminated a sentence which provided clarification. The Zastrow case involved a man accused, possibly falsely, of violently attacking a young boy. The case was specifically used to defeat the attempt to reform German sex laws. A second, unrelated case involved one of the founders of the Social Democratic movement in Germany, a member of Parliament named von Schweizer. He was accused of consensual homosexual acts. Although legally exonerated, his career was ruined and the socialists failed to support him. It was Ulrich’s greatest disappointment that all efforts to reform German sexual laws failed despite his efforts and those of many jurists. These efforts first appeared to build the momentum for change.

■ Thanks,
Tom Reeves
Boston, Mass.

Resistance: armed action and underground drugs

Dear *GCN*:
I was angered by Duncan Mitchel’s review of Marty Rubin’s *The Boiled Frog Syndrome* [Vol. 16, No. 4]. I too noted the political incorrectness and naivete of Rubin’s book concerning various past figures and events in American history. However, he does recognize that there is a ruling class in this country, which is a higher level of political consciousness than that of the majority of the U.S. population and, unfortunately, the majority of Gays. But the main thing I liked about Rubin’s book is that it presents the message that there is a very real danger of an attempt to quarantine and exterminate Gays under the pretense of fighting the AIDS epidemic. This message is given in a sugar-coated fictional form which hopefully will reach far more people than those of us who read political articles. It is by no means certain that AIDS hysteria will reach a level that results in an attempt to exterminate us but the probability is high enough that the more Gays who get Rubin’s

message and start thinking of what countermeasures to take the better.

In fact, one criticism I would have of *The Boiled Frog Syndrome* is that there was only one battle scene showing the Gay resistance fighters in action. And, in the end, Stephen Ashcroft paid ransom for his lover instead of rescuing him; and there is little hope of overthrowing the religious dictatorship that has taken over the U.S. by the end of the novel. If the resistance movements of other oppressed peoples can carry out effective armed actions and throw out their oppressors, there is no reason why Gays cannot do likewise. The fact that most people in our community do not even consider this possibility is another measure of our community’s internalized homophobia.

Gay author Tim Barrus has written a purportedly nonfiction account in the January 1987 *Stallion* magazine of a group of Gay resistance fighters who have established a base in the mountains of New Mexico. They have collected an arsenal comparable to that of a third world army in order to fight off a future quarantine and extermination campaign against our community. Hopefully, Mr. Barrus’ account is true, since we not only need such a resistance movement against any future extermination attempts but we need it now when there are cases such as the three teenaged, straight punks in Maine getting off with less than a year in juvenile institution for murdering a Gay man. If the straight courts won’t give us justice, Gay People have the right and the duty to take it for ourselves! It should have been our community that executed Dan White for the murder of Harvey Milk instead of Dan White doing it himself.

Another thing that angered me about Mitchel’s review is his dismissal of the very likely possibility that AIDS is due to a germ warfare project of some government agency. Why should this disease arise now, just when we have formed a movement to fight for our liberation, when we haven’t been doing anything sexually that we haven’t done for tens if not hundreds of thousands of years? And secondly, more and more authorities are coming to the conclusion that no one is immune to the AIDS virus and that AIDS is universally fatal once contracted. It may be survivable with some of the alternative treatments being explored by the PWA [people with AIDS] community but untreated it is probably universally fatal. If it were possible for a virus to evolve naturally that killed 100 percent of its hosts, this planet would have been wiped clean of life many times over during the 3.8 billion years that life has existed on earth and we wouldn’t be here. The theoretical considerations do not constitute the sort of smoking gun evidence we need to expose the government’s guilt to the public, so the Gay community should be collecting the resources and expertise we need for undertaking freedom of information suits and pressuring elected officials to investigate this matter.

As for Mitchel’s statement that “we’ll leave s/m out of it,” his tone tells us what he really thinks. I would tell him the same thing I would tell a straight homophobe: if you don’t like s/m or Gay sex, you needn’t participate but you have no right to attack people who are doing things that don’t affect you.

Secondly, I would like to comment on Christopher Wittke’s justified complaints about the expense of some alternative treatments for AIDS [Vol. 16, No. 5]. If these various drugs are too expensive, we’ll just have to establish our own underground laboratories and manufacture them ourselves. We have already made a beginning with AL 721. If people can manufacture illegal recreational drugs in underground laboratories, surely we can do the same for drugs that many of our Gay brothers need to preserve their lives. After all, there are Gay pharmacists and chemists. One word of caution is that we should be certain we know what we are doing — one physician in Minneapolis has told me that the government has trouble obtaining AL 721 of uniform quality from even the drug companies. There is a real danger that the AL 721 that Gays are making in our kitchens is not effective. We need to incorporate tests for quality so that we are sure people are taking what they think they are taking. And if these medicinal drugs are still too expensive for some members of our community, raising the money to provide them for free will be an additional task.

Lastly, I want to comment on *GCN*’s use of words like “queer” for Gays. I know that argument is that we are taking the words used against us by our oppressors and making

them our own. But no other oppressed community has attempted to do likewise with the words used against them. That should tell us that as the most hated, and therefore the most self-hating group in this society, we are once again manifesting internalized homophobia when we call ourselves queers and faggots, no matter what “revolutionary” justification we give for it.

■ Sincerely,
Robert Halfhill
Minneapolis, Minn.

They’re trying to kill us off slowly anyway. We need help.

Dear *GCN*:
Brothers and sisters, right now as your reading this letter a “food strike” is under way at the Segregation/Isolation unit here. We are striking due to the conditions that we are being forced to live under. This is not a game.

I’m a gay man like a few others on my tier. There are 6 of us, 3 gays and 3 straits. Even though we live different lives, “respect” is a must among us. We have decided to strike and to also seek your help for the following reason.

Both gay and strait inmates aren’t getting medical attention. And are being “beat up” by professional goon squads when we protest.

Don’t take us wrong. We aren’t “cowards”. Instead of reacting in a violent nature we are going one step beyond and putting our lives on the line. Prison officials are trying to slowly kill us off anyway.

Yeah, we could try going thru the courts, but you know how long and likely that is.

We are asking you to write the Warden [Warden Maass, 2605 State St., Salem OR 97310] and the Head of Corrections [Michael Franke, Dept of Human Resources, Corrections Division, Salem OR 97310] and urge them to “correct” the following: excessive lengths of sentences in isolation, constant harassment by prison “officials” daily, unsanitary living conditions, visiting limited to ½ hour every two weeks, denied educational pursuits, NO outside exercise, NO family phone calls for lengthy sentence inmates, legal calls only 5 days before court hearings, legal mail being opened, no counseling for mental problems, using food as a punishment (substitute called “nutril loaf”), improper use of drugs on inmates, and restriction on inmate legal work.

These are just some of the many conditions we inmates are trying to correct. Our food strike will continue until some changes have been made.

■ Thomas Peacock, 46755
Kenny McPhail (Bullet), 48197
Kevin [unreadable], 50714
Rick Bird, 42582
Tyrone Walton, 43290
Ronald [unreadable], 45943?
Oregon State Penitentiary
Salem, OR 97310

Eighth year of another world war

Dear *GCN*:
In *The Road to Wigan Pier*, George Orwell wrote, “The truth is that many of the qualities we admire in human beings can only function in opposition to some kind of disaster, pain or difficulty....” It was not long before Orwell’s observation was proved on a mass scale; the disaster of the Second World War gave many ordinary people that chance to act courageously and to help others in their suffering. Resistance against the Nazis was a just cause; the determination to destroy a malevolent power gave life meaning and value. If life during the War was geared to victory, victory when it did come brought a moral defeat, as every Western nation settled into the dull torpor of consumerism.

Peace brought a new world in which life became as valueless and empty as the goods endlessly manufactured and consumed. For those of us born into this world, the events of the Second World War have exerted a curious fascination. This was a time when people died for each other and for great ideals, when life was lived urgently and intensely, and although it was a time of terrible suffering, it was also a time of self-sacrifice and moral responsibility.

The gay community is now in the eighth year of another world war. This time the enemy is a disease with human collaborators — those in the government who have acted half-heartedly and too late, as well as those twisted minds who see the epidemic as the

revenge of God.

For those of us in the tragic center, it is a time of grief and anguish, not unlike earlier times of war and plague. It has demanded a degree of self-sacrifice unknown in peacetime. Of this aspect of the epidemic most of the nation is unaware. As the rest of the population cowers in dread of the disease, the greatest acts of courage and compassion are taking place in the gay community. How ironic that the gay minority, reviled by Middle America as immoral, is now achieving a moral victory over its detractors.

In a nation at peace we are a community at war; in the spiritual emptiness of Reagan’s America we are almost alone in seeing that life has meaning only through sacrifice and commitment to others. And in the midst of this unacknowledged war it has become clear that we are fighting for goals that are linked: the first is the cure for AIDS, the second is civil rights.

Against the disaster of AIDS we have brought our latent nobility. Against our continued political oppression we will turn with renewed vigor. If AIDS is killing our friends and lovers, it has also given us an unexpected moral strength and courage in our struggle for civil rights.

■ Yours sincerely,
Owen Shows
Jamaica Plain, Mass.

Come out, come out

Dear *GCN*:
This coming October 11 is National Coming Out Day. What a brilliant idea! Now imagine every lesbian and gay in the United States were completely out and open to their families, friends, co-workers and community. If one day every lesbian and gay just came out of the closet, I think the numbers would be staggering. You’d see people you never thought were gay or lesbian, maybe even someone like your own mother or father!

Imagine the political advancements that would be made if everyone “came out.” Lesbians and gays would not have to fear losing their jobs, houses, children, families, lovers or rights. Straight society would see that we (gay people) are not a small minority and that lesbians and gays are a productive and creative part of society.

Imagine what the lesbian and gay youth of this country would see if everyone came out of the closet. Teachers, parents, athletes, doctors, judges, janitors, carpenters, lawyers, politicians, actors, police officers, military members, all lesbian and gay, and all having productive careers in role model positions. Our gay youth would see that homosexuals cannot be stereotyped. Lesbians and gays are of every religion, of every race, of every ethnic background and of every nationality. Lesbians and gays are deaf, blind, short, tall, rich and poor.

Most important of all, if every person came out of the closet, imagine all the pain and loneliness that our gay children could avoid knowing that they were not the only gay or lesbian person in the world or knowing that they were not some freak that deserved to be miserable.

Imagine what it would be like if we didn’t have to hide, pretend or lie to people about who we are and what we feel. If we didn’t have to watch our every action or thought.

I tell you, I don’t want to imagine it anymore. I want to experience it! The only way that I know that I or anyone else is going to experience their full potential is by coming out of the closet and saying, “Yes, I am a lesbian” or “Yes, I am gay.” The only way we are ever going to get our rights is by coming out and demanding them. The only way we are going to help gay and lesbian youth is by coming out of the closet and saying, “Yes we are here.” The only way we are going to educate the straight community about lesbian and gay issues is by coming out of the closet and dealing with those issues ourselves.

The only way we are ever going to make being lesbian or gay a non-issue and move on to more important matters is by burning down our closets and coming out in full force, and saying, “Yes we are lesbian and gay, and yes we are open about who we are.”

I encourage anyone who is not open or out to their families, friends, relatives, co-workers or community to take the steps of struggle and risk rejection for the reward of knowing yourself and giving other people the same chance to know you.

■ Michael Nulty
San Francisco, Calif.



Closing plenary at Toronto conference. Rex Perenara (standing) and Makeda Silvera (center).

“Grassroots” conference draws international lesbians and gay men of color

Toronto gathering acknowledges political realities of specific geographic communities and stresses international networking

By Mona Oikawa

TORONTO — About 150 people from around the world gathered in the steamy Toronto heat to attend the Fifth International Lesbian and Gay People of Colour Conference. The biennial conference took place July 28-31; its theme — “Grassroots” — emphasized the origins and historical struggles of lesbians and gay men of color around the world.

The conference kicked off with an evening of performances presenting the rich cultural diversity of some of the participants. Through poetry, dance, and music, artists shared pieces of their heritage and linked them to their current political and cultural work.

The opening plenary set the tone for the entire event as speakers from New Zealand, Mexico, England, Canada, and the U.S.A. spoke of their struggles as lesbians and gay men of color in their respective communities. Highlights from this session included Rex Perenara’s description of his work as the Maori National Coordinator with the New Zealand AIDS Foundation. He provided a moving and powerful account of how to organize in a white-dominated political context. Angela Bowen gave a brief personal history of her experience as a Black lesbian feminist in the U.S.A. and shared some of her insights on movement building in her work as co-chair of the National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays. Celeste George spoke of the situation of native Canadians in British Columbia and described how the state has used the AIDS crisis as another reason to discriminate against them. She stressed the need for action against the B.C. provincial government’s move to implement a quarantine bill targeted at people with AIDS — a bill she said will legalize further oppression against gay men, lesbians and people of color.

Other plenary speakers were Kris Black of the Black Lesbian and Gay Centre Project in London, England; Merle Woo, a socialist feminist and member of Radical Women in San Francisco; and Alejandro Reza who works with “Calamo,” a social and political organization for lesbians and gay men in Mexico City. While acknowledging the political realities and organizing strategies of specific geographical communities, these presentations also recognized the need for international networks and sharing of resources. Although most of the conference participants were from the U.S. and Canada, there were also representatives from Mexico, Guatemala, New Zealand, England and West Germany.

Seventeen workshops held on Friday and Saturday took a hard look at some of the crucial issues facing our communities, such as AIDS, racism, and working together. Other sessions explored class differences,

setting up support systems, and defining art and culture within a gay and lesbian of color context.

Although there was a diversity of workshops to choose from, conference organizers also allowed space for participants to set up their own workshops and caucuses. As a result, additional workshops were created, and Aboriginal, Asian, Black, Latina, and People of Colour (for people of mixed backgrounds) caucuses were formed.

This flexibility and giving room to specific concerns were in keeping with the “grassroots” theme of the conference. Despite the financial constraints (an operating budget of only \$10,000) and a serious drain on individual resources, the organizers drew upon the energies of the Toronto lesbian and gay people of color community to mount an event that was vibrant and in touch with its own historical roots. Held in a community center in the heart of downtown Toronto’s growing Church Street gay area, the conference was a visible presence in the community throughout the weekend. It also coincided with Caribana, the annual Caribbean street festival and parade.

This Canadian people of color context made a strong impression on many of the international participants. Rex Perenara commented that “before coming to this country I believed that [the political and cultural climate in] Canada was the same as the United States. I found out differently.”

The evenings gave participants the option of attending organized activities or free socializing. Videos and films by and about people of color were screened, a dance was held, and the usual tour of the bars was conducted. Needless to say, discussions commenced in the workshops spilled over into the hot summer nights.

At the closing plenary, workshop reports and resolutions from caucuses were presented. Some of the items agreed upon were self-determination for Aboriginal peoples, a comprehensive statement on fighting AIDS, and a commitment to take back the resolutions and work on them in each community.

The only major debate arose over the issue of how to organize future conferences. Two views were presented: establish a steering committee, or allow the hosting community to define the structure of the conference. The latter position won the approval of the majority of the participants. It was decided that a more organic structure would give autonomy to the sponsoring group and the conference would thus be more reflective of the host community. Makeda Silvera, one of the conference organizers, emphasized the importance of autonomous organizing at the community

Continued on page 11

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Members of Khush and AMALGM relaxing after the conference

The making of an autonomous gay/lesbian Asian milieu

First North American Asian queer conference in Toronto

By S.H.

Eighty Asian gay men and lesbians from all over Canada and the United States gathered in Toronto August 19-21 for the first ever North American conference for gay and lesbian Asians. Entitled "Unity Among Asians," the conference was jointly sponsored by *Khush*, a Toronto-based association of South Asian gay men and lesbians, and the eight-year-old Gay Asians of Toronto (GAT). Through two days of workshops and discussions, the participants shared with one another their thoughts on identity, sexuality and community while brainstorming strategies for change and empowerment. Also highlighting the weekend's activities was "CelebrAsian '88: The Show," GAT's annual theater and performance event celebrating gay Asian culture, creativity and community. This was followed by "CelebrAsian: The Dance," where locals and out-of-towners, conferees and organizers relaxed and partied together.

The ground-breaking collaboration between the South and East Asian gay groups — represented by the joint sponsorship of the conference by *Khush* (South Asian) and GAT (mainly East Asian) — underscored the conference's theme of unity among Asians. And the desire to learn to work together as people from different cultures and perspectives motivated many of the discussions in workshops such as "Racial Prejudice Between Ethnic Communities" and "Lesbian and Gay Men Working Together." Given the many and disparate cultural and political backgrounds of the conference participants — third-generation Japanese Americans, recent immigrants from Hong Kong, refugees from Vietnam, Indians who had grown up in immigrant communities in East Africa, feminists, ex-Catholics and self-identified queens — those who came together under the general rubric gay/lesbian Asian needed to hear about the commonalities and diversities in each other. But "Unity" struck a deeper, and more personal note for many conferees; the theme also implied the need to synthesize conflicting identities and loyalties in their own lives as gay people and East and South Asians living in North America.

This more personalized interpretation of "unity" was reflected in many of the workshops that dealt with identity and community. North American-born Asian conferees compared their sense of Asian roots and identity with their Asian-born counterparts; both explored the notion of growing up and living in post-colonial societies where no "pure" well-defined cultural tradition predominated but where instead many traditions co-existed and intersected. On the other end of the spectrum, the workshop on "Coming Out in the Old World" drew together those wishing to return to their home countries. For them the priority was to explore strategies for surviving as gay men and lesbians in the more tradition-bound societies of East and South Asia. Dealing with family and traditional expectations also occupied the attention of other participants who recognized their families as one important cultural and emotional link

to their Asian heritage. Yet another workshop explored the pitfalls and triumphs of the gay bar cruising scene and the perceptions of mainstream gay people about Asians.

An important discussion led by Olivia Chow, an elected member of and a Chinatown representative for the Toronto School Board of Trustees, covered strategies for reaching out to straight Asian communities. These strategies covered the spectrum from written materials produced by credentialed professionals to one-to-one personal contacts thought by many to be the most effective. Underscoring the importance of this outreach, Bang Nguyen and Donald Masuda of the Gay Asian Pacific Alliance (GAPA) of San Francisco discussed their experiences working with straight groups on AIDS education and outreach to Asian communities. Their statistics, which show a 70 percent increase in the incidence of AIDS among Asian/Pacific peoples in San Francisco in the past year, pointed out the need for increased AIDS prevention education. At the same time, they emphasized the need for constant advocacy to ensure that Asian gay men and bisexuals — the groups primarily affected — are not ignored by straight organizations in their zeal to do "general" education and outreach. Nguyen and Masuda maintain that this inclusion can only happen if Asian gay input and initiative is part of all programs targeted towards Asians.

While there were enough men to spread out over several workshops, lesbian conference participants numbering about 15 in all caucused separately to discuss longstanding issues of identity and community. Later, Asian/Pacific Sisters of San Francisco shared their views on organizing as an autonomous lesbian group while the Alliance of Asian Lesbians and Gay Men offered its experience on gay men and lesbians working together. An immediate focus of this discussion was the need to organize Asian lesbians in Toronto who thus far are unrepresented in existing groups.

Of the organizations present GAPA maintained a strong profile with a table selling t-shirts and displaying AIDS education material in different Asian languages. Other organizations represented included the Asian Lesbians of the East Coast (ALOE), Asians and Friends of Chicago, the Boston-based Alliance of Mass. Asian Lesbians and Gay Men (AMALGM), Asian/Pacific Sisters of San Francisco and *Trikone*, a gay liberation newsmagazine for South Asians based in Los Angeles. Other participants hailed from such places as Ottawa, Montreal, Kingston and Minneapolis.

CelebrAsian: the Show

A high point of the Conference was "CelebrAsian: The Show," a cultural and variety show highlighting the talents and creativity of gay and lesbian Asians. Produced by the Gay Asians of Toronto with the assistance of *Khush* and contributions by other conference participants, *CelebrAsian*

Continued on page 12



LIVING WITH BARRIERS: inside & out (who cares?)

Counting Time
Noon count, cell doors
slam shut closing
each inmate in her
own small shell, so
familiar but yet so
strange
The officers count the
prisoners
The prisoners count the
days
The days count for
nothing
Time stretches out
changing its shape and
sags like a older woman
or man's face.
Time is waiting, is
remembering,
is surviving, is
counting
on a name, a place,
a half-forgotten lover's face.
Noon count is correct.
Cell doors open,
but we remain inside.
Patti Florez



Each year the Prisoner Poetry & Graphics spread has a dedication (focus). This year, under the influence of a disabled dyke friend of mine who must constantly struggle with barriers that quite literally bar her from much (!) of what most of us take for granted, and of listening to her talk about the similarities between her experience with hospitals (& other "homes") and that of a prisoner penpal of hers (a "detained" Mariel Cuban); and also under the influence of the following "found" poem, this spread finds its dedication:

— to those among us: the "disabled", the "old", the "mentally ill" etc. who are **CONFINED** in myriad ways — by the indifferent attitudes of those of us in their "community" who just don't want to deal with them, as much as by physical barriers — against their wills.

Speaking of the "marginal" people of our "community" (who Judy Grahn calls the "core/-heart" people), it is no coincidence that as homelessness increases, prisons are being built so fast that the number of prisoners is now doubling every ten years. Well over half a million people at this point. And that doesn't even begin to approach the number of people on the prison parole/probation 'tether', who have 'conditions' set on who they can associate with etc etc that are so stringent that they are very difficult to follow. A large percentage of people in prison are there just for violating these 'conditions'.

These poems and drawings are by lesbians and gay men behind bars who read GCN each week. (This year much of our stock of lesbian poems was used in last fall's special supplement on "Lesbians in Prison", so our supply here is much lower than usual.) They are a part of a dialogue the Prisoner Project wants to support between all of us in our various forms of cages and closets. They give flesh to some of our own simple-minded stereotypes about the "Justice" (and now "Health") Business (sic), about prisoners and about "Crime".

For more "flesh" (contact) with these and other prisoners of our community, see the Prisoners Seeking Friends space weekly in the paper.

Mike Riegle
Prisoner Project

(the found poem)

around and around. on level nine harold walked around and around. It took three and a half minutes. everytime. the other patients got a kick outa harold. said harold didn't have a family. they laughed. harold had his name on his gown. he was the only one. once in a while he'd stop and ask for something to eat. or for the exit. when he looked at you, in the eyes, it seemed that he expected you to say something extremely important. the nurses thought he was cute. old harold. they locked harold in his room at night. you could hear him bang on his door. sometimes. doctors said he couldn't leave. harold was not happy. the doctors played tennis. the doctors were not happy. the doctors would see harold die in this place. the hospital. this place of death. and money. harold would moan at night. they caught harold trying to escape. twice out the door in his gown and cane. in the rain. and slippers. harold isn't useful anymore. harold has no power. lost the power. can't consume. no power. the nurses laugh. people die. lots of people die. no community. no friends. sometimes he'd look in the rooms. as he passed. sometimes he wouldn't.

Thoughts

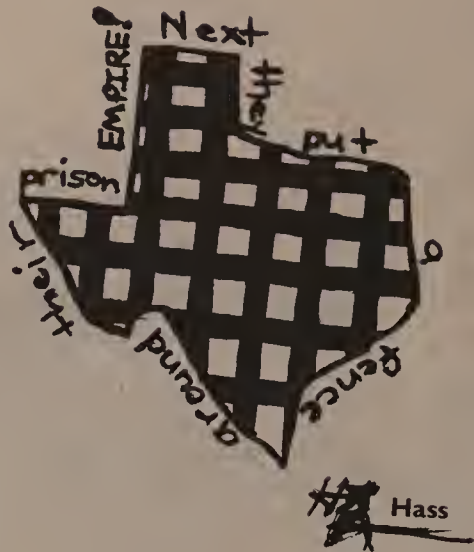
Listen to some of the thoughts I have had
of the faces I have seen and now they are sad.
Mostly they try to keep it inside,
looking to be free, but freedom is denied.
There's hurt in their hearts and their walk and their eyes.
The pain in their faces they can't really hide
People are bought and people are sold.
A man's life is worth less than a handful of gold.

There's a room in this place they call the 'hole'.
I've seen a lot of men that have walked in bold.
They came out bent and torn with pain,
and the others wondered if the man was still sane
So here I sit locked in my cell,
hoping for the day I can leave this hell.

Kenneth Evans

The Hate Factory/ or Living Like Rats

Caged like rats
we are
waiting
and wondering if
our chance
will come
or maybe
they fear
the flock
of gay blades
whose lifestyle
cuts deep
thru their
bigotry against
anything
different and jolly
Chester Vinton Haas



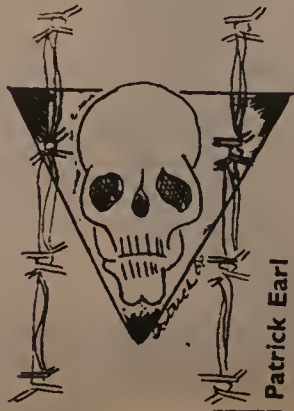
Our grievances are as follow

(Some approaches
and possible solutions
to properly, adequately
firmly, fairly, humanely
and ethically address the
endless problems
of handling and treating
social-mental
prisoners
here at Angola)

WE WANT, NEED AND DEMAND THAT:

- 1) All Camp J, extended lockdown
(and the likes) prisoners
who appear to be suffering
from a psychiatric and/or
psychopathic problem be
promptly given attention
and treatment for this
problem;
- 2) All Security (prison)
guards who have been found
guilty of reckless
neglect of their responsibility
to protect and further the
interest of social-mental
prisoners be unhesitantly
suspended or fired for
their neglect;
- 3) That some serious
pre-emptory effort
be made to detect and
treat the problems
of the victims of the
immune conditions which
produce psychiatric disorders;
- 4) To renounce the scheme
of putting the burden
on the social-mental prisoner
to qualify for treatment;
- 5) To fulfill and honor
your (social workers)
responsibility to prevent
Security (guards)
from unnecessarily
excessively, mechanically
and criminally transgressing
the person of all social-mental
prisoners;
- 6) To end the
sinister and sly scheme
of allowing Security
to use social-mental
prisoners to attack and
assault other prisoners.

Respectfully submitted,
The Campaign of Exposure
Albert Chul Clark



Noise

Engulfed by ancient steel and concrete
Desolate and eerie paint-chipped wall
Tears dripping from the ceiling
Thundering echoes
the noise of 1000 men
trying not to be lonely
Bashing my nerves
Timothy Scaggs

To be or not to be: a preference

Damu: Now that you've
decided to let your
hair down: to come out
of the closet in respect
to your sexual preference
when do you intend to
make a confession
of suppression
of being "Gay"?

Bora: First of all
who do I owe a confession to?
Gay folks?
Anti-gay forces?
Straight folks?
Did I commit a
crime when I intentionally
conceal my sexual preference
from all but myself?

Damu: Personally speaking,
I don't think so. But
many Gay brothers and
sisters who have been openly,
diligently and courageously
fighting for the rights of
Gay people, and suffering untold
hardship stemming from this
battle tend to look down
on Gay brothers and sisters
such as yourself with
bitter contempt. They say
that your closet position
is a position of fear, shame,
and betrayal.

Bora: Well, to each their
own. But, like my preference
of being Gay, likewise it is
my preference to be overt
or covert when I so desire.
Am I correct?

Damu: Regarding your right
to be closety?

Bora: No, regarding my
preference to be closety.

Damu: Preference? Right?
There seems to be a play
at words here. A privilege.
A choice to be or not to be.

Bora: Condemn or denounce me
if you wish. It's
your prerogative. But it's
my preference.

Damu: Yeah. You have a right
to be wrong.

Bora: Right or wrong.
It's my preference
to live my life
as I so choose.

Albert Chul Clark

Corrosion

Corrosion of the mind
and all it houses
the dreams, the beliefs
the inner sanctum
with all remaining
pieces of such
just a tiny shell
brittle and ready
to snap at any moment
making the pieces fewer
and the rot over powering
and irreparable.

Tracy McGulness

When the first is last

Another year fades
with eyes closed
my mind wanders
to a brief moment
In a time
that was
Barely nineteen
with eyes deep green
bright with the flicker
of dancing candle light
and joyful abandonment
Shirt and pants removed
he sat — just so
in ragged underwear and holy sox
the center
of my desire
Half loaded
I pushed him back
upon the bed
and for the first time
Made love

Patrick Earl

(exerpts from a long poem)

The time drags by,
You watch a fly
Crawl across the ceiling.
Your brain goes dead
For the road ahead
Must be traveled without feeling.

For the road is long
And you travel among
Many hidden dangers.
You're in this pen
With angry men
And you must control your anger.

The days get better,
When you get a letter,
When one comes the day seems to soften
But friends on the street
Are hustling to meet
Their bills which crop up too often.

You look all around
This animal pound
And you begin to wonder.
What kind of mind
Could be so unkind
As to make this awful blunder?

What insane sages
Designed these cages
To entomb human beings?
What kind of minds
Set all these lines
To profit from these settings?

Karl Ahlers



You

I've been setting and
thinking of just you.
You might think I'm bold
and forward, yes, I do
believe its true.
But your laugh and smile
have made my days worth
while. I only seen you once
and that was just a glance
but, young man, you've made
my mind and blood run wild.
I believe I could set in this
prison for another eleven years
for another of your beautiful
smiles. So let me say thank
you, young man, for the memory
of your sweet smile.

Terry Drake

I've got to remember

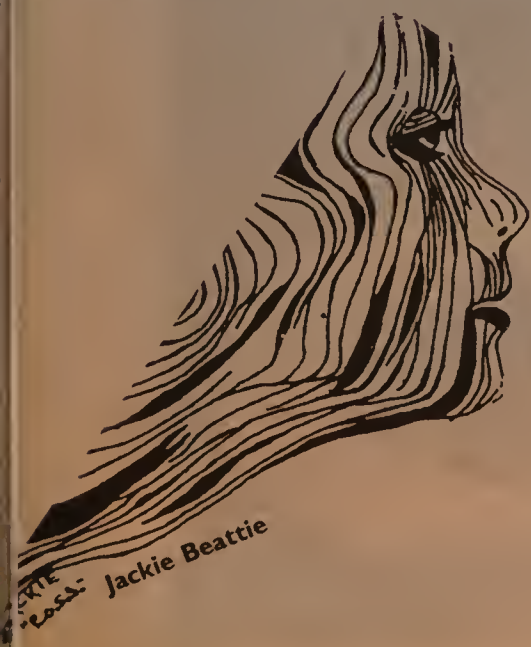
(a silent dedication to RNL)

I've got to forget the look in your eye
and the special way you smile.
I've got to forget our last goodbye,
but forgetting will take awhile.
I've got to forget the sound of your voice,
that caused my heart to race.
I've got to forget the touch of your hand,
and the gentle lines of your face.
I've got to forget the first time we met,
and how the feeling grew.
But I've got to remember I knew all along
that I'd have to forget about you.

Jery Ragland

Observation

word
symbol
need of comfort
kinds of hunger
kinds of loss
kinds of help
persons for care
powers for strength
growth for survival
lives for hope
the symbol
ignorance ignores
na Lisa Spero



By chance

his mind is an endless path of road blocks.
and what i can see of his life is a broken
bridge. he thinks he dare trust me, and wants
me to repair his bridge. i know he's thinking
this, and is misleading himself. the path
steadily fortifies with new road blocks. i am
caught in the midst of this hide and seek
game of chance. no one else has ever
penetrated his defenses. i weigh the odds
with much doubt.

David Emerson Rezabek

So often we reach

So often we reach out and offer
that which we have to give
to someone who has no need
or does not recognize
the value of our gift.
Thus our gift goes unreceived
through no fault of our own.

And this rejection causes pain
and what's more,
when someone comes along
who has a need for
what we have to give,
but because the memory
of rejection
is still fresh on our mind,
we are no longer reaching out.

I don't wish to be everything
to everyone, but I would like
to be there
to be something
to someone.

Timothy (Terri) Manus



A poem

Though you're so far away
I can honestly say
My prison is not
What it seems when I picture
You in my dreams.

Tim Grimaldi

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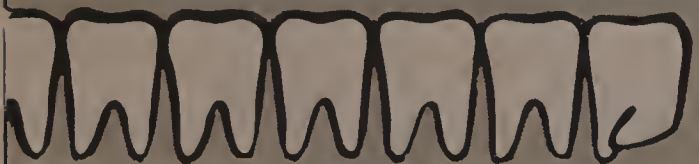
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Robert Donner, 37

By Vincent Liceneiato

Robert Donner died after a long illness at Beth Israel Hospital on Aug. 5. He was 37.

He was born in Brooklyn, New York, grew up in Wilmington, Delaware, and lived in Boston for 20 years. He graduated from Boston University in 1972 and then from the Boston Architectural Center in 1979.

Donner worked at Donham and Sweeney in Boston as an architectural draftsman. During his career he worked on the John Hancock Tower, the Vendome, Beth Israel Hospital, state-aided housing for the elderly and a Harvard University access map for the disabled. He also co-authored the guidebook *Beacon Hill for the Traveller and City Dweller*. He played the bass clarinet, banjo and flute and was a member of Boston's Freedom Trail Band. He was also a member of the Chiltern Mountain Club in Boston.

He is survived by his parents, Seymour and Betty Donner of Wilmington; his brother and sister-in-law, Richard and Gail Donner of Cherry Hill, New Jersey; his grandmother Dorothy Wolpert of Brooklyn; a niece and nephew; and longtime



friend Joseph Farinella of Boston.

A funeral service was held on August 7. Donner was buried in Wilmington.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, Sept. 10, at 4:00 p.m. at the Arlington Street Church in Boston. Donations may be made in his memory to the AIDS Action Committee. □

Harvard

Continued from page 1

there are over 120 AIDS treatments considered "highly promising" by the FDA, of the 231 participants in Harvard-run clinical studies as of this June, only four were testing a drug other than AZT.

Harvard medical professor Martin Hirsch, who is also an infectious disease specialist at Massachusetts General Hospital, told *GCN* he was out of town on Sept. 7 and did not attend the protest. He disputed the allegations of ACT UP/Boston, however, saying that despite limited funding and personnel, "no institution in the country has more clinical trials going on than Harvard." According to Hirsch, Harvard has a number of studies under consideration besides AZT trials.

"But," he added, "a substantial amount of our effort is directed in that area [AZT] because in 1988, it is the only treatment showing efficacy. We're also conducting studies on how to reduce the toxicity of AZT."

Hirsch also defended the use of placebos in cases where "there is no standard way to show if a therapy is effective," but he claimed the topic of placebos is "really a non-issue." Furthermore, Hirsch said Harvard has many openings in clinical trials, and welcomes the participation of people in the community. But when asked why PWAs have said they were unable to join any trials, Hirsch explained, "Each protocol has to have criteria for entry. Yes, some have very rigid criteria."

During the protest, Jeff Barmeyer, a PWA and member of ACT UP/Boston, told the crowd he no longer took AZT because it caused bone marrow suppression — the same side effect as the chemotherapy he received to treat an opportunistic malignancy. Yet, Barmeyer explained, he was unable to qualify for clinical trials for other drugs, such as dextran sulfate or riboviran. "Many PWAs are being excluded from these protocols at Harvard teaching hospitals under a myriad of criteria," Barmeyer said. "After ten months with AIDS I still can't obtain any experimental drugs to combat HIV. Why am I denied access to these promising drugs under Harvard's protocol terms?"

Protesters especially decried the lack of availability of aerosolized pentamidine (AP), a drug they described as the standard medical treatment for pneumocystis carinii pneumonia (PCP) in AIDS centers across the U.S. Claiming that hundreds of area residents who desperately need AP cannot get it through Harvard-run clinical trials, ACT UP/Boston asked, "AP is more widely available in the state of Maine than in the city of Boston, the self-proclaimed hub of the medical universe. Why?"

An Act UP/Boston flyer cited a recent quote from Davis Allen, a doctor at New England Deaconess Hospital (a Harvard teaching institution), in which he stated, "In Boston, most of the care of AIDS patients has occurred amongst a small group who happen to work in academic centers where the scrutiny is much greater than in a private physician's office. I think we're probably doing it right in Boston."

The scrutiny may be greater, responded

ACT UP/Boston, but so is the number of deaths from PCP. Throughout the demonstration, AIDS activists challenged the Harvard medical community on its pronouncements and charged the institution with "medical elitism." For example, ACT UP/Boston claimed Harvard researchers have disregarded the concept of Community Research Initiatives (CRIs) — projects that attempt to extend clinical trials into the community and provide treatment for PWAs. According to ACT UP/Boston, Harvard utilizes "sleek, elegant, inaccessible science" rather than the cooperative approach that must be established between AIDS care providers and PWAs.

"At Harvard you may learn," stated protesters, "that PWAs and the private physicians treating them in community-based clinical trials are not sophisticated enough to collect 'useful data.'" Demonstrators decried this attitude, claiming humane treatment of subjects plays as crucial a role in trials as medical sophistication or the "flaunting of very expensive medical diplomas."

ACT UP/Boston literature explained, "There can be few genuine volunteers in an epidemic; you cannot freely 'volunteer' for something you must have simply to survive."

"Patients must realize that they are viewed by their 'physicians' as subjects, and should not settle for this arrangement. At the same time, for the medical establishment not to acknowledge this reality — that their subjects are indeed patients in need of medical care — is bad science and is inhumane."

The protest went on for more than an hour, attracting curious students and other onlookers. There were few confrontational incidents, though Boston police attempted to prevent members of ACT UP/Boston from spilling their containers of pseudo-blood onto the street. Undaunted, the group let flow some of the red paint mixture before police officers kicked the remaining containers into sewer drains.

According to ACT UP/Boston member Tom Reeves, the Harvard Medical School was targeted for protest because the institution controls much of the medical industry in New England. "Harvard is an incredibly powerful monopoly which controls many teaching hospitals in the area," Reeves said. "It is so centralized and strong — Harvard can block the use of proven effective treatments, such as aerosolized pentamidine." □

Grassroots

Continued from page 6

level. For her, this independence "gave lesbians and gays of color in Toronto the opportunity to work together and define our issues. It was a unifying force in terms of working together and coming to know each other."

All of the participants agreed on the need to continue to communicate, to widen the dialogue, and increase the international representation at the next conference. It was hoped that this movement would build upon the spirit of this meeting and reconvene at the Sixth International Lesbian and Gay People of Colour Conference to be held in London, England in 1990.

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3 feminists seek same to share 4 bedroom house in Medford. 15 min. walk to Davis Sq. Veggie, non-smoking \$270 plus utilities 787-0910. After 9/1 391-0822. (9)

HOUSING WANTED
PEE-WEE'S PLAYHOUSE
Bif 31 and 1yr old son looking to share friendly household in Cambridge/Somerville area. We need large bedroom, toyspace, and an independent yet caring environment. No pets, drugs, cigs. \$300 plus. Call 391-3041 and leave message. (9)
I STILL NEED A HOME!
Gay man (26) seeking home by Sept. 1 in Boston/Cambridge area. I school and work in Cambridge and would like to move in with others committed to mostly independent, friendly, cohabitation. 300 including, tops. Kenji, 868-3392. (8)

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Ashmont Lower Mills, great location, tree lined street one block from T. 2 bedrooms, L, D, eat-in kitchen w/pantry, disposal, w/d hook-up, porch, plenty of on street parking, gay owner occupied, no pets. 750 plus util. 436-4507 (8)

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WHITE MOUNTAIN MAGIC
Enjoy spectacular fall foliage at our 100 acre mountain resort. With 19 charming guest rooms, pool, hot tub, firplaced common rooms and miles of trails, we're just what you need! Ask about our holiday plans too! The HIGHLANDS INN, Box 118G, Bethlehem, NH 03574. (603) 869-3978. Grace and Judi, Innkeepers. (17)

GREENHOPE FARM
Escape to the peace and privacy of Vermont. Secluded lesbian farm offers veg. cuisine, cozy rooms with views and daily trail rides on our own gentle horses. Waterfall skinny dipping. Early fall foliage. (802) 533-7772. (9)

ORGANIZATIONS

OLDER LESBIAN ENERGY
Social and support group for women over 40. P.O. Box 1214, East Arlington, MA 02174. (15.48)

BLACK AND WHITE MEN TOGETHER
Multiracial group for all people. Call (415) 431-1976 or write BWMT, suite 140, 580 Castro St. SF, CA, 94114. (16.1)

BOSTON ALLIANCE OF GAY AND LESBIAN YOUTH
Social support group for youth 22 and under. Wed. night general meeting from 7:30-9pm. New persons meeting at 6:00. Women's meeting at 6:45. Call 482-7858 for info. (15.32)

MAN/BOY LOVE
Intergenerational Love Support Group. World wide news, art, opinions. Application, information free, bulletin \$1. NAMBLA, P.O. Box 1923, St. Louis, Missouri, 63118. (7)

PUBLICATIONS

BAD ATTITUDE
A lesbian sex magazine. Irreverent and Hot! \$10 for one year's subscription (3 issues). B.A. Inc., P.O. Box 110, Cambridge, MA 02139. (16.33)

BLACK/OUT
The new quarterly magazine from the National coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays, features news, views, reviews, poetry, short fiction and announcements of interest to the national Black Lesbian and Gay community. Sample copy, \$4, 1 yr. subscription, (4 issues) \$10. To: Black/Out, NCBLG, 19641 W. Seven Mile, Detroit MI 48219. (ex)

OUTRAGEOUS WOMEN
A journal of woman-to-woman s/m. Fantasy, analysis, erotic art and much more. Sub: \$13/four issues. Single issues \$4. Must state you are over 18. SASE for info. PO Box 23, Somerville MA 02143. (ex)

gay COMMUNITY NEWS

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"As a Black gay pro-feminist man working for the betterment of all my people, I depend on GCN for both the acquisition and dissemination of timely, accurate, and unbiased reporting. I have yet to be disappointed."
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PUBLICATIONS

WOMAN OF POWER: "A Magazine of Feminism, Spirituality, and Politics," an inspiring international quarterly publication. Subscriptions \$22 for 4 issues; singles issues \$6 plus \$1 postage. P.O. Box 827, Cambridge, MA 02238, telephone (617) 625-7885. (ex)

ON OUR BACKS, the sexual entertainment magazine for lesbians, is 48 pages of erotic fiction, features, plus timely sexual advice and news columns. We are quarterly, national, unique and provocative. \$15/yr sub or \$5 current issue to: On Our Backs, PO Box 421916, San Francisco, CA 94142. (ex)

LESBIAN CONTRADICTION
A Journal of Irreverent Feminism. Quarterly of commentary, analysis, reviews, cartoons & humor by and for women who agree to disagree-who are still political, but not necessarily correct. Sample \$1.50; sub \$6; more if/less if. LesCon, 584 Castro, #263G, SF, CA 94114. (16.--)

GUARDIAN:Independent radical newsweekly. Covers Gay, women and minority struggles and international progressive movements. Special offer-4 issues FREE. Wnte Guardian, Dept GCN, 33W 17th St. NY, NY, 10011. (ex)

off our backs
Celebrating 15 years of radical feminist journalism. We bring feminist national/international news analysis and reviews each month. \$11 year, 11 issues. (\$15 for contributing subs) \$20 institutional fee. Sample-\$3 for 3 issues! Write 'off our backs' Dept GCN, 1841 Columbia Rd. NW, Room 212 Washington. DC 20009. (ex)

Prisoners Seeking Friends

TO ALL THOSE, IN & OUT OF PRISON, WHO FIGHT AGAINST THEIR BONDAGE.
Alexander Berkman, *Prison Memoirs of an Anarchist*



Poets & Artists in the Centerspread

David Emerson Rezabek, 34034, Box 900, Jefferson City, MO 65102
Gena Spero, ICU 4 North, 45 Hospital Rd, Medfield, MA 02052
Terry Drake, 14162, Box 28, Pendleton, IN 46064
Clifford Payne, D-17728, 7C-20 Upper, Box 1902-B, Tehachapi CA 93561.
Kenneth Evans, 406797, Rt 4 Box 1200, Rosharon, TX 77583
Patti Florez, Box 7007, Carson City, NV 89702
Albert Chui Clark, 79909, Camp J, Shark I-R-13, Angola LA 70712
Karl Ahlers, 82A 4134, Drawer B, Stormville, NY 12582
Tracy McGuinness, Box 128, Lancaster, MA 01523
Timothy Scaggs, 119050, State Farm VA 23160
Marvin Nowell, 427154, Rt 4 Box 1200, Rosharon, TX 77583
Jery Ragland, 17324-009, Box 1010, Bastrop, TX 78602
Chester Vinton Haas, 327322A, 12FE67, Box 4500, Tennessee Colony, TX 75861
Tim Grimaldi, 11013, Box 7000, Carson City NV 89702.
Patrick Earl, c/o LCJ, Box 1629, Bronson, FL 32621
Tim Manus, 85A 8326, Box 500, Elmira, NY 14902

National COMING OUT DAY!
No matter how far in the closet or out of the closet you are, you have a NEXT STEP. National Coming Out Day is meant to increase the visibility and political clout of the millions of gay men and lesbians in this country. October 11, the anniversary of the BIG March last year is the day.
We are putting out a journal of stories, letters, poetry, artwork, photos & short PERSONAL STATEMENTS from people, including prisoners, all over the country. Please send something for possible inclusion to: Nicholas Snow, c/o Gay Rights Advocates, 8380 Santa Monica Blvd, Suite 202, W. Hollywood CA 90069. (NOW!!!)

I am an effeminate homosexual, 22, in DIRE NEED of some legal and moral help in my suits against this Kansas Prison system. Please write if you have any info of even if you are willing to send a simple letter of protest & concern to the authorities. Steven WAREHIME, 42278, Box 2, Lansing KS 66043.

The ACLU sent me a book with GCN's name in it. I've tested positive for HIV and I'm looking for some penpals that have also tested for AIDS that know how I feel. I'm not gay or nothing else and that don't matter to me anyhow. Gay people are people. No matter what side of the street you come from. I need to talk with someone. John RUSSO, 20764, PO Box 208, Indian Springs NV 89070.

Thank you so much for the AIDS info you sent. It is the only thing available in this joint right now. I would also like to place a penpal ad in GCN: Looking for friendship, total drag queen, will swap photos if you like, 'Joni'. Marshall WOOD, 131312, Rt 1 Box 207-C, Lawrenceville VA 23868.

They call me 'Cherry' and I love all kinds of men. I also like rock music, cooking and doing house and everything that a woman does to make her man happier. I also don't believe in using or misusing anyone and I don't want them to do it to me. I been gay since I was 10. Please write. William RAUSCH, 91501 Mag 3, Angola LA 70712.

I would like to correspond with a gay person. "Color" doesn't matter. I'm a young Black hulk with good intelligence and a pleasing personality. Plus a clear perspective on a positive life once I'm released from this bondage. I have numerous interests and hobbies. Henry COCHRAN, EF-145283, B unit, Reidsville GA 30499.

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JANICE GURGES, I'm trying to find your address. Please write. Norma, 402163, Rt 4 Box 800, Gatesville TX, 76528.

I enjoy all outdoors and I love country music and horse back riding. I want some honesty and don't play headgames. I been hurt by to many women in my life. I'm 28 and I am a Butch. I prefer to write to women. I want someone to share my life with. I like my women little old and beautiful. Judy WILSON, 16435 Eliz. 1479 Collins Ave, Marysville OH 43040.

My sign is Virgo and my hobbies are singing and dancing and I like to play a little sports and I am single and very interesting. Nickname: Whitney Houston. Please write me. Tina McDONALD, 501875, Roosevelt, Box 147, Lowell FL 32663.

I am a gay female who would like to correspond with any sex, sexual preference, or race in the "free world". Virginia McCORMICK, C150357, PO Box 8540 (623), Pembroke Pines FL 33024.

I NEED A LAWYER!!
My conviction, from the arrest to the pre-trial publicity to the trial, revolved entirely around my sexuality. I guess the gay community in Houston would have an interest in this, but I haven't been able to get any support from them yet. I understand the reluctance to antagonize the Houston cops, because they DO get even. But I would appreciate some legal aid. Ana Lucia GELABERT, 384484, Rt 4 Box 800, Gatesville TX 76528.

I am into S/M and B/D, mostly bottom but some top. My hobbies are reading, drawing and photo collecting. I would like to write to someone. A photo with or without clothing would be great. A hairy body is a plus. Ansul COLE, 453193, Rt 2 Box 20, Midway TX 75852.

I'm a 30 yr old Black man who happens to be incarcerated, has no family ties and seeking to correspond with anyone. My interests are studying law, reading, writing and real people. Very lonely and loving. George William BOLDEN, 196-389, Box 57, Marion OH 43302.

I would like to be in contact with TVs & TSs. I'm 31, a computer science major, witty, intelligent and looking for someone to love. Photo and SASE guarantees response. W. Jerry YOUNG, 169-061, Box 56, Lebanon OH 45036.

I would love to hear from some loving gay brothers out there. Maybe a friendship would develop. Only time can tell and I have a few years. Terry BLEVINS, 03663-030, Box 1000, Milan MI 48160.

I'm extremely lonely and very interested in corresponding with someone for a possible friendship. Am Black, 32, enjoy music, reading, chess, sci-fi and modern philosophy. Ronny Lee BEVERLY, 25330-168, Box 1000, Marion IL 62959.

Help! I'm being held against my will by state officials! I've been eligible for parole since 1986 but need a job and place to live. I'm a certified paralegal with extensive legal background. If you have any ideas please write. Roger Allen GREEN, 20218, 700 Conley Lake Rd, Deer Lodge MT 59722

I'm looking for someone to write who is looking for a good friendship and a well hung relationship. Please write Michael 'HOWARD', 188-929, Box 45699, Lucasville OH 45699

Hello, please send me your fine newsletter and put me in your penpal place. You stay strong and sweet too! Robert JOHNSON, 123451 (K-111), 1000 St Clair Rd, Springville AL 35146.

I'm looking for a city man or a country boy, not in prison, who likes Heavy Metal and Rap and likes to go camping and wants to settle down and only drinks occasionally. Send photo if available. Robert O. BYRD, 50181, 818 Jefferson Ave, Moundsville WV 26041.

Looking to share my few remaining months among my brothers and sisters. I'm a gay male, 23, on death row waiting for them to pull the plug. Would really appreciate hearing from any and all. Thomas (Blondie) PEACOCK, Box 46755, 2605 State St, Salem OR 97310.



calendar

17 September ☐ Dance the night away at the AIDS Action Committee's Gotham Ball. Cyclorama, 539 Tremont St., Boston, Info: 437-6200.

Please note: Calendar listings must be received by the Monday before the week of the event. Photos with listings are encouraged.

10 Saturday

Boston ☐ **Living With AIDS Theatre Project** presents a workshop every Saturday to collect the experiences and stories of those connected in any way with the AIDS crisis. The goal is to create a theater music piece based on the workshop material. No performance experience necessary. Club Cabaret, 209 Columbus Ave. 10:30am.

Boston ☐ **Amethyst Women** dance. A drug- and alcohol-free event for lesbians and their women friends. All women welcome. YWCA, 140 Clarendon St. 9pm-1am. \$6 more or less.

Boston ☐ Girth and Mirth of New England hosts a **Hawaiian Luau**. 74 Joy St. 8pm. \$3 non-members, \$2 members. Info: Joe 926-5827, Michael 641-1044.

Northampton ☐ **SHELIX**, a New England woman-to-woman S/M support group, presents a night of lesbian erotic videos, including footage of the International Ms. Leather Contests of '87 and '88. All women welcome. 8pm. \$2. Info: 413/584-7616.

Boston ☐ Boston Area Women's Self-Defense Collective offers **Women's Self-Defense Classes** for women of all ages and abilities. Meets Wednesday evenings and Saturday afternoons in the South End. Info: 574-9433.

Boston ☐ Boston **Bisexual Women's Network** holds a potluck picnic/barbecue. Bring food, non-alcoholic beverages, frisbee, volleyball, friends, etc. All women welcome. Herder Park, across from Channel 4, Soldiers Field Rd. 2-6pm. Info: 247-6683.

11 Sunday

Cambridge ☐ **Men of All Colors Together** meeting at Harvard Yard's Phillip Brooks house. Discussion topic: "AIDS: We are not alone facing the challenge." Election of officers precedes the discussion. All welcome. 1-5pm. Info: George, 266-4378.

Boston ☐ Join **Am Tikva**, Boston's community of lesbian and gay Jews, for Rosh Hashanah Services. Egalitarig, wheelchair accessible. YWCA auditorium, 140 Clarendon St. 7pm. Donation. Info. & reservations: 782-8894.

Boston ☐ Metro Healing presents **ongoing healing group** for PWAs and all those wishing to be of support. Meets every Sunday. Metropolitan Health Club aerobics room, 209 Columbus Ave. 7:30-9:30pm. Info: Brian 267-1154, Joseph 357-6926.

Carlisle ☐ Join the **Chiltern Mountain Club** for a two hour walk through Great Brook Farm State Park. Ice cream after the hike. Info: Keena 508/263-6936.

Boston ☐ **Boston's Other Voice** special guest Kathryn Triantafillou speaks on the State House incident. With host Peter Stickel. WROR 98.5FM. 11:30pm.



12 Monday

Cambridge ☐ **Lesbian Rap** topic: "Lesbians and Disabilities." The Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 8-10pm. Free. Info: 354-8807 (TTY/voice).

Cambridge ☐ **Boston Bisexual Women's Network** introductory meeting. The Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 7:30-9:45pm. Free. Info: 354-8807 (TTY/voice).

Kittery, ME ☐ **Seacoast Gay Men** potluck party. Info: 207/439-3023.

Boston ☐ **Women's Rugby Club** fall practice every Monday and Wednesday, 6-8pm. No experience necessary. Info: Mel 536-4943, message 932-5401.

13 Tuesday

Salem ☐ North Shore Gay and Lesbian Alliance **potluck supper** with slides of the March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights. Grace Church, 385 Essex St. 7pm. Info: 508/745-3848.

Cambridge ☐ **Bisexual Women's Rap**. The Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 7:30-10pm. Free. Info: 354-8807 (TTY/voice).

Providence, RI ☐ **ACT-UP/Rhode Island** has meetings open to the public every Tuesday. Rocket, 73 Richmond St. 7pm. ACT-UP RI, PO Box 3156, Wayland Square Station, Providence, RI 02906. Info: Bill 617/782-9063.

14 Wednesday

Cambridge ☐ **Forgotten Women Composers**. Fredericka King of the New England Conservatory performs and discusses the unpublished works of Black American composers Florence Price and Margaret Bonds. Host: Ana Ortiz. "Say it, Sister!" WMBR, 88.1 FM, 7pm.

Cambridge ☐ **MASS ACT OUT** weekly meeting. M.I.T., Building 66, Rm. 126. 7:30pm. Info: 661-7737.

Boston ☐ Meet to help form the Boston Chapter of the **National Coalition for Black Lesbians and Gays** (NCBLG). "Each one bring one." All interested parties are welcome to attend. 312 Stuart St., 3rd floor. 7pm. Info: 491-6851.

Framingham ☐ Showing of **Sammy and Rosie Get Laid**, with discussion to follow. Sponsored by the South Middlesex Chapter of NOW. Framingham Public Library. 7:30pm.

Boston ☐ **Boston NOW** Reproductive Rights Task Force meeting. 971 Commonwealth Ave. 7pm. Free. Info: 782-1056.

Boston ☐ **NAMES Project** general meeting to coordinate plans to bring the AIDS Quilt to Washington, DC in October. Piemonte Rm., 5th floor, City Hall. 7pm. Info: Tim 262-4831.

Cambridge ☐ **Lesbian Partners of Incest Survivors** The Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 8:15-9:15pm. Free. Info: 354-8807 (TTY/voice).

15 Thursday

Boston ☐ **GCN's production night**. All welcome. Proofreading starts at 5pm. Paste-up after 7pm. 62 Berkeley St., near Arlington & Back Bay T-stops. Info: **GCN**, 426-4469.

Boston ☐ **MASS ACT OUT** sponsors a community forum on AIDS activism which will include discussion of the October civil disobedience in Washington, DC. Piemonte Rm., City Hall. 7:30pm. Info: 661-7737.

Northampton ☐ **Valley Gay Alliance** meeting. Bet Power will speak on "S/M Liberation: Up from the Underground. Unitarian Church basement, 220 Main St. 7:30pm. 413/584-7616.

Cambridge ☐ **Women's Craft Market** meeting for all craftswomen who wish to participate in the December marketplace or join the Women's Craft Market collective. 186 Hampshire St, Camb, 7pm. Info: 324-6822.

16 Friday

Boston ☐ **GCN mailing**. Come help stuff the paper and meet new friends. 5pm to 10pm. 62 Berkeley St., near Arlington & Back Bay T-stops. Info: **GCN**, 426-4469.

Boston ☐ **Cycle Vermont** in two days with the Chiltern Mountain Club. Info: Lisa, 288-3141.

Boston ☐ **Ongoing healing group** for PWAs and all those wishing to be of support. Meets every Friday. Santa Fe Hair Salon, 528 Tremont St. 7:30-9:30pm. Info: Brian 267-1154, Joseph 357-6926.

Worcester ☐ **AIDS Project** — Worcester **support group** meets every Friday night for HIV positive, PWA's, PWARC's, lovers, friends, and the worried well. Open to all lesbians and gay men regardless of HIV status. 51 Jackson St. 7-9pm. Info: Dana, 508/755-3773.

Cambridge ☐ **Women's Coffeehouse**. Open to all women. The Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 8pm-midnight. Info: 354-8807 (TTY/voice).

Worcester ☐ **Poetry reading** by Esther Heggie, Ken Marsh, Dana Rice, and friends. Music and refreshments, wheelchair accessible. United Congregational Church, 6 Institute and Salisbury at Lincoln Sq. 7pm. Free. Info: 508/755-4978.

17 Saturday

Boston ☐ AIDS Action Committee presents the **Gotham Ball**, all proceeds to benefit the Committee. Cyclorama, 539 Tremont St. 9pm-2am. \$12 in advance, \$15 at door.

Boston ☐ **Prime Timers** monthly meeting. An organization for older gay males. Guest speaker: David Scondras. Refreshments, socializing. Visitors welcome. Lindemann Health Center, 25 Staniford St. 2-4pm. \$1. Info: Box 352, Reading, MA 01867.

Lovell, ME ☐ Gay Men's Social Association **canoe trip on the Saco**. Leaving 9am from the canal bridge off Rt. 5 between No. Fryeburg and Lovell. Barbeque party to follow. Info: Paul or Alan, 603/367-8304.

Cambridge ☐ **Waking Up, A Lesson in Love**, directed by Greta Schiller and produced by Linda Farin and Lindsey Lane. **GCN** Lesbian Erotic Video Benefit. Paine Hall, Harvard Univ. 7pm. \$5. Info: 426-4469.

Jamaica Plain ☐ Nicole Hollander Fan Club **rummage sale**. Proceeds to benefit Centro Presente and Comadres. Corner of Centre St. and Spring Park Ave. 10am-4pm.

Chelsea ☐ **Concert** for Peace and Independence in Central America. Sponsored by the Honduran Francisco Morazan Committee. Grand debut of Honduran Folk Dance Group, and South American music with group Fortaleza. Chelsea High School, 8 Clark Ave. 7pm. \$5 in advance, \$6 at door. Info: 492-8699.

Boston ☐ **Canoeing** on the Saco River near Fryeburg, Maine with the Chiltern Mountain Club. Bring your own canoe. Info: Paul or Alan, (603) 367-8304.

18 Sunday

Somerville ☐ Somerville/Medford/Arlington **Lesbian Potluck**. 6pm. Info: 625-6364.

Jamaica Plain ☐ **Lesbian and Gay Neighbors** monthly potluck get-together. Last outdoor potluck of the season. Newcomers welcome. Bring a dish to share and a non-alcoholic beverage. Meet at the Jamaica Pond Outdoor Theater entrance across from Moraine St. 3-6pm. Info: 522-3894.

Boston ☐ **Downtown Lesbian Neighborhood Group** meets for afternoon tea. All lesbians in the Back Bay, South End, and downtown Boston invited. 2pm. Info: Joan 266-5169, Karen 482-7830.

Boston ☐ **Boston's Other Voice** presents a live call-in. With host Peter Stickel. WROR 98.5FM. 11:30pm.

CALENDAR COMPILED BY
TODD HOLLISTER

The Last Temptation of Christ. Directed by Martin Scorsese. Written by Paul Schrader, based upon the novel by Nikos Kazantzakis. With Willem Dafoe, Harvey Keitel, Barbara Hershey, David Bowie, Harry Dean Stanton. At the USA Paris.

By Michael Bronski

By this time almost everybody must be sick of reading about *The Last Temptation of Christ*, director Martin Scorsese's radical revisioning of the Gospels which is based upon Nikos Kazantzakis's 1951 novel. But now that the protests are calming down and all of the people who are going to see it as a media event have seen it, the film itself can be looked at for what it is. Most critical responses have been generally positive. Some critics have proclaimed it a masterpiece, others argue that its slow moments create fatal flaws, all agree that it is searingly different from the usual Hollywood religious epics such as *King of Kings* or *The Greatest Story Ever Told*. And everybody seems to think that Scorsese's approach to the material is completely new, totally original. While I agree that the film is a fine and powerful statement of religious and political conviction, it's clear that a great deal of director Scorsese's vision comes from films by gay director Pier Paolo Pasolini.

Paul Schrader's script is based, closely for the most part, on the Kazantzakis novel, with many of the images coming right from the printed page. But much of the film's visual tone —

especially in regards to Willem Dafoe's portrayal of Jesus — is very close to that of Pasolini's 1964 *The Gospel According to Saint Matthew*. Pasolini's Christ, taking his cue from the director's communist ideology, is more of a political organizer than a godhead. *Last Temptation* plays this angle down somewhat (it actually gives this material to Judas, whom Harvey Keitel plays like a Brooklyn trade union leader) but the connecting thread is the intensity and the almost manic passion that drives both Christs. In 1964, the shocking part of Pasolini's film was that Christ did not calmly explain himself, but was bubbling over with anger and the desire to convert. Scorsese has taken this image and has refin-

Scorsese's "Temptation" according to the gospel of Pasolini



Willem Dafoe as Jesus

ed it, made it a little more self-doubting and self-reflective, but the character's origins are clearly connected to the Pasolini ver-

sion.

Scorsese, and his cinematographer Michael Ballhaus, have borrowed even more

heavily from Pasolini's historical tragedies and epics — *Medea*, *Oedipus Rex* and *The Arabian Nights* — to create the intense, naturalistic, and barbaric look of *The Last Temptation*. Most biblical films from Hollywood take place on some backlot that looks like a painting from a cheap Bible. Scorsese filmed in North African locations, filling the screen with arid stretches of land and bold rock formations that create a palpable sense of struggle against the brutal forces of nature. It is a startling effect, but one used frequently by Pasolini. In *Medea* and *Oedipus*, Pasolini replaced the storybook figures of toga-wearing Greeks standing in front of white-columned temples with an almost savage people who wear sheep skins and ponded metal head-dresses. The usual temples were replaced with mud huts and open-mouthed caves. In effect, he challenged the sentimentalized, storybook notions of Greek culture, replacing them with vital, earth-bound images. In *Arabian Nights* he went even further and created a whole new world — filmed in Tunisia and parts of East Africa — in which landscape played as much of a role in the narrative as the characters did.

It was Pasolini's materialism and his belief in the strong connection between humans and their environment that led him to re-vision these classic myths and tales in such settings. But it was also his gay identity, and his long struggled-for-sense of the importance of sexuality that allowed him to so evocatively picture his characters in conflict with their surroundings.

Part of the power of *The Last Temptation of Christ* comes from these very images, and from a sense — shared by the two directors — of the spiritual and the material world inextricably bound together. In Pasolini's *Oedipus*, when the title character discovers he has married his mother, he wails and howls before he blinds himself; he throws himself on the ground, his grief being the emotional equivalent of an earthquake. Similarly, Scorsese's Christ does not cast out demons by laying his hands upon the afflicted; he struggles with them, wrestles them out of the body and physically banishes them.

Watching *The Last Temptation of Christ*

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